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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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DPC 204

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS AND RADIO NEWS BRIEFING, TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 2, 1962, 12:34 p.m.

MR. WHITE: Ladies and gentlemen, my apologies for being a few minutes late. I suggest that we open the briefing by having Dick Phillips on a BACKGROUND basis give us a brief rundown on this morning's meeting of the Foreign Ministers. Dick?

MR. PHILLIPS: The Secretary made brief welcoming remarks and, as many of you know, the room was open for photographers. Following that, the Secretary made a talk of about a half hour, in which he described the world situation as he sees it and then enumerated several of the problems that he thought the Foreign Ministers would want to discuss in connection with Cuba. He commented that in keeping with the informal nature of the meeting that the members would probably wish to be cautious in their remarks to the press.

[Laughter]

And that he felt that it would not be appropriate for any delegation to speak for other delegations or to make matters in the conference matters of record.

He was followed by the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister--

I'll spell these names, if you want--Alfonso, A-l-f-o-n-s-o, Ortega, O-r-t-e-g-a Urbina, U-r-b-i-n-a. May I caution you that if you use--don't use all three names, use the first two, not the last two or the first and the last.

The next speaker was the Argentine representative, the Ambassador to the United States, Dr. Roberto T. Alemann, A-l-e-m-a-n.

Q One "n"?

Q Double "n".

MR. PHILLIPS: Double "n", yes. Excuse me. The Foreign Minister of the Dominican Republic, José Antonio Bonilla, B-o-n-i-l-l-a, Atiles, A-t-i-l-e-s, and the Foreign Minister of Guatemala, Jesús Victor Unda, U-n-d-a, Murillo, M-u-r-i-l-l-o.

Q M-u or M-o?

MR. PHILLIPS: "u".

Q Morillo?

MR. PHILLIPS: Murillo.

Q What comes after "Victor"?

MR. PHILLIPS: Unda, U-n-d-a. And the Foreign Minister of Honduras, Andrés, A-n-d-r-e-s, Alvarado, A-l-v-a-r-a-d-o, Plata, P-l-a-t-a.

Q No, Puerto.

MR. PHILLIPS: Puerto, excuse me.

Q Is that the last name?

MR. PHILLIPS: Puerto, P-u-e-r-t-o. And he was still speaking when I left the meeting.

Q On what?

MR. WHITE: Thanks, Dick. I think most of you--

Q Dick, could we ask some questions?

MR. WHITE: Excuse me.

Q Could you tell us whether the other Foreign Ministers, whom you heard, responded to Mr. Rusk's plea for secrecy in this meeting?

MR. PHILLIPS: There was no other mention of that in the meeting, no. But no one made any indication that they didn't agree with him either.

Q Dick, in his half-hour talk, did Rusk more or less outline the full US position? In other words, he stated his case now, and did he make any proposals or suggestions?

MR. PHILLIPS: No, he did not. He did not give the US position on any particular question that may be brought up.

Q Are they going right around the table?

MR. PHILLIPS: No.

Q Will Rusk--

MR. PHILLIPS: No, it's like a Quaker meeting. When anyone feels the urge, they speak.

Q Well, you mean he just said, "We got an

interesting problem here and here are some of the elements of it. Do you fellows have any ideas?" Was that the approach?

MR. PHILLIPS: That was a very simplified way of what he expressed, yes.

Q Well, did Rusk sort of outline in general what kinds of things he hoped the meeting would accomplish? And, if so, what did he say about it?

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes, he did. But I wouldn't want to go into that.

Q Can you tell us what sort of proportions he sought to establish between the Cuban situation and, say, Berlin?

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, he has expressed himself on that before, that there was no connection between the situation in Cuba or the Cuban problem and any of the other problems involved in the cold war.

Q There is no connection?

MR. PHILLIPS: Well, in the sense that they were not something that could be negotiated in connection with other problems.

Q Can you say whether Caribbean military commands or some sort of alliance was discussed?

MR. PHILLIPS: I couldn't.

Q Were all of the invited countries represented?

MR. PHILLIPS: Yes.

Q. Has the United States circulated a paper among the Latin American delegates?

MR. PHILLIPS: No.

Q. Are you denying the stories we read on several tickers today about a 5-point memorandum?

MR. PHILLIPS: I know of no paper that has been circulated, no.

Q. Dick, was this bit about Rusk's thoughts on the Cuban problem not being subject to negotiation with respect to other problems in the cold war, was this something he said today to this group, or is this just something he said before?

MR. PHILLIPS: Both.

MR. WHITE: Thanks, Dick.

[At this point Mr. Phillips left the briefing room]

MR. WHITE: I think most of you have the names of those in attendance. If not, I have a desk copy here, you are welcome to consult.

Gentlemen, I have a brief statement here. The following is the text of a memorandum handed to a member of the Soviet Embassy this morning at 11 a.m., here in the Department, and now I quote the memorandum: